

update

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news and events

New York. Speaking before the Annual Staff Meeting on 22 January, UNDP Administrator William H. Draper III highlighted some of the dramatic changes sweeping world politics and their implications for UNDP operations. "With the end of the Cold War," he said, "the United Nations has become a true forum for the nations of the world to speak with a single voice in the cause of democracy and freedom."

Pointing to the courage of UNDP staffers serving in field offices caught in the midst of war, civil strife and natural disasters, Mr. Draper said that the role of the UN has become crucial in the realm of co-ordinating relief operations. Mr. Draper recently returned from visits with UNDP Resident Representatives in Egypt, Jordan and Syria where relief activities have become highly visible since the outbreak of war in the Middle East.

Turning to the essential changes in UNDP operations to meet the challenges of the coming decade, Mr. Draper outlined plans to meet the latest directives of the Governing Council. These include a shift toward the programme approach in country activities, a move toward full-scale national execution and greater emphasis on grassroots participation, women in development, technical co-operation among developing countries, poverty eradication and environmental protection.

One of the most exciting events for UNDP in 1990 was the release of the first ever *Human Development Report*, which focuses development on people rather than simply Gross National Product. Mr. Draper said the 1991 Report will concentrate on freedom and participation as development indicators. A new freedom index will complement the Human Development Index. The video tape of Mr. Draper's speech is being edited and soon will be distributed to UNDP field offices.

Washington, D.C. During his address to the International Development Conference held here on 23 January, Mr. Draper spoke about issues the United States must face in trying to create a "New World Order." Based on co-operation instead of conflict, this period requires greater attention paid to problems of poorer countries, such as indebtedness, unstable commodity prices and distorted trade flows, he said.

Mr. Draper said there is a compelling need for increased external assistance, and urged that armament spending be redirected to meet critical social needs. And he added that safeguarding the global environment must move high on the international agenda.

Population pressures, too, must be eased. "As a rich nation, the United States must contribute to a global campaign to keep human population in harmony with its natural resources," said Mr. Draper. "The alternative will be further degradation of the fragile outer layers and atmosphere of our planet and America will not be spared the consequences."

The example we set today, he said, will determine how the world enters into the next millennium. The US can use its "leadership and strength to establish a new atmosphere, a New World Order, in which power is tempered by co-operation in the interests of peace and justice."

Windhoek. A four-day conference on private sector investment began here on 3 February. Convened by the government, the gathering is a follow-up to the country's provisional investment programme which was presented last June at the International Donor Pledging Conference in New York. Namibia's new Foreign Investments Bill, which encourages investments from abroad, will be presented at this week's conference.

The government views the meeting as an important step toward implementing its recently formulated investment policies. The gathering will allow the government, potential international private investors and the domestic private sector the chance to articulate their investment objectives and concerns.

Potential investors will be familiarized with Namibia's fiscal and monetary policies, foreign exchange legislation and taxation laws. Discussion papers will be presented on the country's mining, energy, fishing, agriculture, tourism and manufacturing sectors. Those attending the conference include senior representatives of multilateral and bilateral institutions with interests and

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involvement in Namibia. UNDP assisted in organizing and coordinating foreign investor participation in the conference.

New York. As a follow-up to the March 1990 Education for All Conference in Jomtien, Thailand, a seminar on "Innovative Approaches to Meeting Basic Learning Needs" was held at UNDP headquarters from 10-11 January. Education specialists, representatives from UNESCO, the World Bank, UNICEF and bilateral agencies gathered to exchange views on meeting basic learning needs, particularly in the areas of reading and math. The seminar was sponsored by UNDP's Technical Advisory Division and the Division for Global and Interregional Programmes.

Presentations were made on integrated learning techniques by Dr. Laurence Martel, President of the National Academy of Integrated Learning; Dr. Renee Fuller, Clinical Psychologist and a basic learning specialist; Dr. John Bruer, President of the James S. McDonnell Foundation, which funds research on learning techniques; and Prof. Everard Barrett, an innovator of methods for teaching math.

Plans are underway for UNDP to assist in identifying national and regional education experts and research institutes involved in innovative basic learning methodologies in developing countries. The long-term aim is to provide assistance in adapting useful alternative teaching techniques that can be used a variety of social and economic settings.

New Delhi. Prime Minister Chander Shekhar of India recently inaugurated a UNDP-sponsored energy audit bus. The bus serves as a mobile diagnostic unit for measuring energy efficiency at industrial sites. Packed with a computer, gas analyzers and other energy-measuring instruments, the bus visits factories to audit consumption and calculate how much energy can be saved through low-cost conservation methods.

The government considers the vehicle an important contribution toward reducing the country's oil import bill. India has placed priority on increasing energy-use efficiency and decreasing dependence on fuel from abroad. The government estimates that through simple conservation techniques, India could reduce its energy consumption in the industrial sector by 25 per cent, in transport by 20 per cent and in agriculture by 30 per cent.

New York. The winner of the Sixth National High School Essay Contest on the UN will witness, first-hand, the work of UNDP in Brazil. The trip to Brazil will be included in the first prize for the 1991 nationwide contest sponsored by UNDP, the UN Association of the USA (UNA-USA), and the Dailey Family Foundation. The essay focuses on the UN's role in combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking of narcotics. Varig Brazilian Airlines will provide transportation to Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia.

The contest, which is open to students in grades 9-12, asks participants to prepare a 2,000-word report on the UN's efforts in the drug war as if they were the UN Secretary-General. National prizes of cash and a trip to New York to meet the Secretary-General will be awarded to three students and their teachers. An

eminent panel of experts will decide on the winners in May.

"We are very pleased to have Varig's generous support of this programme," says Jim Muldoon, UNA-USA Director of Model UN and Youth Programmes. "Giving students the opportunity to see the UN and UNDP addressing the problems they read and hear about makes the UN real, an institution they can better relate to."

projects approved by the action committee

(all approvals subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

2 January 1991

Peru. UNDP is supporting national development of electronic and information systems that will promote Peru's telecommunications and industrial sectors. This preparatory phase will help establish policies to ensure that the technology developed will be transferred to private industries. Products, such as a telephone switching system, will be identified and produced to meet local communication needs. Proposed UNDP contribution: \$103,000. Government cost-sharing is also \$103,000. Funds are to be used for telecommunications consultants and support costs. Executed by the International Telecommunications Union and implemented by the National Telecommunications Company. (PER/89/005)

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19 December 1990

Algeria. Restructuring Algeria's fiscal system is part of a broad programme of economic reform to improve government budgetary management and diversify sources of revenue. Under this revised project, a master plan will be devised for improved computerization within the Tax Administration. Manuals and taxpayer forms will be produced in both French and Arabic languages. Total UNDP budget: \$475,930. Funds are to be used for consultants, training, equipment and a subcontract for a software programme in Arabic. Executed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and implemented by the Ministry of Economy, Tax Administration. (ALG/89/022)

Brazil. The World Bank and the Government of Brazil signed a loan for \$50 million in 1987 for the first National Programme for Industrial Pollution Control. Two years later, the government requested assistance from UNDP to help implement and monitor this Programme. The new project will strengthen state pollution monitoring systems, devise national strategies and support training for pollution control. A computerized management system for procurement of equipment will be set up. Proposed UNDP budget is \$3 million, which is entirely government cost-sharing. Funds are to be used for equipment, specialists in management and automation systems, training and two seminars for 120 Brazilian professionals. Government executed and implemented by the Brazilian Institute for the

Environment and Renewable Natural Resources. (BRA/90/003)

Chad. In the early 1980s, UNDP helped provide a fleet of 45 trucks to transport emergency food aid to remote areas of drought-stricken Chad. UNDP's Office for Project Services (OPS) will continue to help the government to manage funds for maintaining this fleet. The trucks are still used to carry emergency aid, mostly food, into northern desert regions. They are each capable of carrying 50 tonnes of food. The \$824,300 from government cost-sharing will be allocated for the purchase of spare parts and operations expenses. Government executed and implemented by the Ministry for Food Security and Distressed People. Proposed co-operating agency: UNDP/OPS. (CHD/90/004)

Colombia. The government recently launched a programme of modernization and reform of the State aimed at streamlining all levels of the public bureaucracy. Through this UNDP project, public administration experts will introduce a merit-based system of career development for public service workers. A new plan for decentralizing the public administration will be devised and public servants trained. Funds of \$500,000 from UNDP's Special Programme Resources will be used for consultancies, subcontracts for the design of an information system, training and equipment. Government executed in association with UN Department for Technical Co-operation for Development (UN/DTCD) and implemented by the Secretariat for Public Administration of the Presidency. (COL/89/501)

Ecuador. UNDP is helping to promote small-scale business initiatives for rural development. The project will provide training in

selected non-governmental organizations in the areas of credit administration and extension services. A credit fund will be established for productive community enterprises. Proposed UNDP contribution: \$338,800 for experts, training and equipment. Third-party cost-sharing from the Netherlands: \$1,498,400 for a revolving fund. Executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) and implemented by the Under-Secretariat of Rural Development, Ministry of Social Welfare. (ECU/89/007)

Egypt. This project will enhance national debt management capabilities. A Technical Secretariat will be established within the Central Bank of Egypt to develop policy guidelines on external debt and make applied studies on possible debt relief schemes. Computers and software for automation of relevant ministries will be procured and the database at the Central Bank of Egypt will be upgraded. Proposed UNDP contribution: \$900,000 for consultants, a subcontract for computer installation and maintenance, training and computer equipment. Government executed in co-operation with the UN Conference on Trade and Development, the World Bank and IMF. Implemented by the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and Administrative Development. (EGY/90/015)

Mozambique. One of the government's development objectives is to diversify the national economy by strengthening the Ministry of Mineral Resources. Training will help improve the Ministry's ability

to conduct mineral studies and promote small-scale mining activities. Mining skills and equipment will be upgraded. Additional UNDP contribution: \$1,027,963 for geologists, equipment, subcontracts and training. Executed by UN/DTCD and implemented by the Ministry of Mineral Resources. (MOZ/86/023)

Paraguay. The government has begun a campaign to attack the problems of urban poverty by assisting the micro-entrepreneurial sector. Training, technical support and credit assistance will be provided to the Paraguayan Foundation for Co-operation and Development (FUPACODE) for its programme of support to small-scale enterprises. Entrepreneurs will also be directed toward finding new markets for their products. Proposed UNDP contribution: \$800,000. Government cost-sharing: \$4 million. Funds are to be used for consultancies on social development and marketing, an economic adviser, a revolving fund, training and equipment. Government executed and implemented by the Ministry of

Industry and Commerce through FUPACODE. (PAR/90/014)

St. Kitts and Nevis. UNDP will strengthen the technical capacity of the Department of Agriculture. Support is geared toward the improvement of farmer extension services, plant propagation development, rehabilitation of livestock stations, fodder production and artificial insemination. Assistance will also be provided in the fields of agricultural engineering, marketing and agricultural credit services. Proposed UNDP contribution: \$699,500 for agricultural experts, training and equipment. Executed by FAO and implemented by the Department of Agriculture. (STK/90/004)

Regional project:

Pacific Multi-Island. UNDP assistance is aimed at promoting sustainable development and protecting the fragile ecosystem of the South Pacific island countries. It will help strengthen the capabilities of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to effectively co-ordinate regional environmental activities. A revised charter providing SPREP

with more autonomy will be prepared and presented to the forthcoming Intergovernmental Meeting in June. The project will also help the region's island countries prepare their national environmental strategies for the UN Conference on Environment and Development set for 1992 in Brazil. Proposed UNDP contribution: \$265,000 for training, equipment and specialists in environmental planning and management. Executed by SPREP. (PMI/90/002)

Interregional project:

This project revision will provide funds needed to complete the second Human Development Report (1991) as well as cover the initial research costs for preparing the next Report. Third-party cost-sharing from Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands: \$545,000 for consultancies, subcontracts, equipment and support costs. Executed by UNDP/OPS. (INT/89/707)



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